(b) All these appointments were made to fill up the existing vacancies. If top management posts are reduced on grounds of losses, there will be dearth of management which could plan for converting losses into profits.

[*English*]

Price Control

5972. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to issue guidelines to public as well as private sector organisations to roll back the prices of their products to the level available in July, 1990; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) (a) and (b). The Government is determined to bring inflation under control through the process of economic reforms, regulated growth of money supply and credit and supply management by ensuring near normal availability of essential goods in the country. Rolling back of the prices of certain items to July, 1990 levels immediately is difficult in view of the current economic situation . However, in order to provide relife to the common man, excise duties on items of common use have been fully warved or substantially lowered. These commodities have also been spared from the railway freight increases. Cooperation of public as well as private sector organisations in bringing down prices has always been sought by the Government with a view to rolling back prices to the intended levels.

Mothballing of Equipments

5973 SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether equipment's with the Army are likely to be moth balled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the category of equipment proposed to be moth balled; and

(d) the countries providing assistance in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURNAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d). Mothballing is a method adopted to store high value equipment. This protects such equipment from corrosion/damage/wear and tear and from all deterioration due to the action of the elements. Thus, Mothballing enhances the life of equipment and reduces the cost of maintenance and storage without any detriment to operational readiness.

This method is used for preservation of equipment, such as tanks, infantry combat vehicles, artillery guns, radars and expensive electronic equipment.

Mothballing of equipment is proposed to be carried indigenously.

Lal Bahadur Shastri Nautical and Engineering College, Bombay

5974. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state: